crores is loan). An amount of Rs.9730.48 crores (including counter-part funding) has been utilized. More than 50% works have been completed in about 150 projects. This programme is continuing in 2006-07 also.

Power Minister's visit to Japan

1434. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of Power visited Japan in the third week of June, 2006.

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit; and

(c) the details of agreements and understanding reached with Japan during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Shri Sushilkumar Shinde, Hon'ble Minister of Power visited Japan during June 22-27, 2006 to show case the Indian Power Sector as an attractive investment destination. The delegation held various interactive meeting with the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and leading trading, financial and power sector companies.

(c) There was overwhelming response to the interactive meeting held in Japan, in which almost all major power sector companies representatives at very senior level participated. The participant had shown keen interest in the Indian power sector investment opportunities, especially the Ultra Mega Power Projects. However, no agreement or understanding was reached between two governments during this visit.

Monarchak gas based power project

1435. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an all-party delegation met the Hon'ble Minister about two months back demanding a revision of Government decision to abandon the Monarchak gas based power project in Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to resume the construction work of the project soon?